

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 9, 11-13, and 19 are amended and new claims 30-33 are presented.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11-33 are pending and under consideration.

Claim Amendments

Claims 9 and 11-13 are amended herein to recite, using claim 9 as an example, a method "wherein the brokering agent checks a qualification of an elementary service agent before the storing of service description information for the elementary service agent."

Support for the amendment is provided, for example, in paragraphs [0031] and [0045] of the specification.

Claims 9 and 11-13 are also amended herein to recite, using claim 9 as an example, a method "wherein the brokering agent generates the request plan which is taking into account meta-information describing the nature of the elementary service agent." This feature was recited in dependent claim 19, which is amended accordingly.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Traverse Of Rejection of Claims 9 and 11-29

Claims 9 and 11-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLorme et al. (US 5,948,040) in view of Bamforth et al. (US 6,330,617 B1). The rejections are traversed.

As provided in MPEP §2143.03 "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F. 2d 1981, (CCPA 1974)."

Independent claims 9 and 11-13, all as amended herein, respectively recite a service brokering method, a computer readable storage medium, and a service integration system including, using claim 9 as an example, "wherein the brokering agent checks a qualification of an elementary service agent before the storing of service description information for the elementary service agent. (emphasis added). "

Applicants submit that such a checking of qualifications of an elementary service agent

by the brokering agent prior to storage of information is not taught or suggested by the cited art, alone or in combination. An example of such checking, according to an embodiment of the present invention, is discussed in paragraph [0031] which discusses:

The service description registering section 16, upon receipt of a service description registration request message from an external agent, checks the message for the agent's qualification and the contents of the request message as necessary, and then registers and stores it in the service description storing section 17.

Further, according to an embodiment of the present invention, as discussed in paragraph [0045]:

If it is a service description message from any of the elementary service agents 20A, 20B, --- or other agents, the brokering agent 10 calls the service description registering section 16 to check the message for its qualification and contents for service description registration as necessary, and then stores the service description in that message in the service description storing section 18. After that, the brokering agent 10 returns to Step S20 to wait for the next message.

By contrast, DeLorme merely teaches in col. 10, lines 19-33, in view of Banforth, as the Examiner indicates in the support of the rejection of claim 11:

transfer of data with travel related service providers (elementary service agent)

(See, Action at page 6, lines 11-12)

Further, independent claims 9 and 11-13, all as amended, recite using claim 9 as an example, a method "wherein the brokering agent generates the request plan which is taking into account meta-information describing the nature of the elementary service agent."

Applicants submit that a generation of a request plan including such a taking into account meta-information describing the nature of the elementary service agent is not taught or suggested by the cited art, alone or in combination.

By contrast, DeLorme merely teaches in col. 8, lines 33-48, in view of Banforth, as the Examiner indicates in the support of the rejection of claim 19:

itinerary determines by quickest route, shortest route, seat availability, pricing, and departure times.

(See, Action at page 11, lines 4-6)

Summary

Since features recited by claims 9 and 11-29 are not taught by the cite art, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 9 and 11-29 allowed.

New Claims

New dependent claims 30-33 are presented to recite features in an alternative fashion. Dependent claim 30 recites a service brokering method "wherein the brokering agent checks the qualification of the elementary service agent upon receipt of a registration request message from the elementary service agent." Dependent claims 31-33 have similar recitations.

Support for proposed new claims is in paragraphs [0030] and [0045]. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

These, and other, features of claims 30-33 patentably distinguish from the cited art, and they are submitted to be allowable for the recitations therein.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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